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RFD LETTER

To
Radio Farm Directors

From
Radio and Television Service

Office of Information - U. S. Department of Agriculture



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★ JUN 26 1952

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

June 13, 1952
Letter No. 526

Dear Radio Farm Director:

There's promise of a record crowd at next week's RFD meeting. Judging from hotel registrations and the letters from many of you, I think we can safely say there'll be upwards to 100 at the meeting.

New Man On Job

Our office was mighty glad to welcome Jack Towers to our permanent staff last week. He fills the network relations "spot" vacated by Milt Bliss last January. A good many of you know Jack. He was originally on the Extension Radio Staff at South Dakota then came to the Department in Washington. He comes to Radio and Television Service from the Production and Marketing Administration.

Unless

Unless farm residents adopt "right attitudes" our economists tell us these things will happen in the next 12 months:

A disabling injury will strike some farm resident every 24 seconds. One out of every 19 will be the victim of such an injury.

Forty-one will be killed every day in some farm accident. One out of every six farms will be the scene of an accidental injury. About 4,000 farm residents will be killed in work accidents, some 6,000 more killed in motor vehicle accidents. That's to say nothing of the 200,000 injured in motor vehicle mishaps. And totaling it up---15,000 farm residents will die in accidents and over a million others will be injured unless we "think safety and act safely."

Recordings from Regional Negro Camp

RFD's wanting recordings from the Fifth Regional 4-H Camp at Tuskegee are asked to follow the same procedure as last year. Send tape and a brief description of what you want with the leaders of the delegation. Joe Tonkin will be on hand to do the recording.

National Farm Safety Week...July 20-26

"Owed" to A (Dairy Month) Queen

Ever stop to think how much of our diets we owe to the 23 and a half million dairy cows in this country? Figures show they supply us with three-fourths of our calcium, and nearly half the riboflavin and one-fourth of the protein in our national diet. That's to say nothing of the vitamins and other nutrients they supply. What's more, "bossie" does it the economical way. Nutritionists tell us that milk is by far the most economical source of calcium and a relatively cheap source of good quality protein and riboflavin as well.

In spite of the fact that milk and milk products are economical sources of these nutrients practically every study of what people eat gives the same picture. Calcium is the nutrient most often low in diets. In most cases the deficiency could be remedied by using more milk.

Oddly enough many of the folks using the least milk live on farms. A recent study of farm diets in the South showed that over 40 percent of the families in cotton and tobacco areas used none or less than a cup a day per person.

Nutrition specialists tell us that children need about a quart of milk a day for growing bodies, strong teeth and bones. Adults need from two to three cups a day. These same specialists point out that if that much fluid milk "hits" the budget too hard, homemakers can economize by using some of the many thrifty forms of milk, such as fluid skim, buttermilk, evaporated milk, nonfat dry milk, and many more. And, of course, ice cream, cheese, and dairy by-products used in cooking also count toward supplying the daily milk requirement.

As an illustration of some of the possibilities for expanding use of dairy by-products, the Dairy Products Research folks here in the Department recently arranged a demonstration luncheon. The tomato juice appetizer contained whey, cheese spreads used on crackers contained protein from whey treated with enzymes to give it smooth body and fine texture. Bread in cheese sandwiches was enriched with dried skim milk and contained 12 percent milk solids. Two ice creams, a sherbet cake and cookies were on the menu for dessert. The maple ice cream was made with a spray-dried mixture of maple sirup and milk solids; the other contained sweetened condensed buttermilk. The sherbet was made with whey in place of water. The cake used buttermilk solids while the cookies contained whey solids. Beverage for the lunch was high-solids milk. It's through uses like this that we can improve our diets and at the same time make more efficient use of our milk.

And speaking of using milk more efficiently, we still have a long way to go. Recent figures show that, while we're using just about all of the fat in milk as human food, we're only using 70 percent of the other milk solids efficiently. The remaining 30 percent, mostly in the form of skim milk, buttermilk, and whey, is either fed to animals or poured down the drain. In 1950 that 30 percent contained enough protein to supply 30 million people for one year plus 2 and a half billion pounds of milk sugar and large amounts of salts and riboflavin. And, while the amounts fed to animals are not regarded as wasted, they are used inefficiently. Human needs come first.

By putting more solids of milk into human diets we can improve our diets without raising an additional cow or feeding an extra pound of feed and at the same time stabilize the dairy industry by placing a dollar and cents value on skim milk solids that's in keeping with their nutritional worth. Then butterfat won't carry all the load.

Smokey Goes Rolling Along

Any day now, you'll be hearing a new song, "Smokey The Bear," written by Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins who also turned out "Peter Cottontail" and "Frosty The Snowman." It's a downright catchy novelty tune, but even more important than that is the fact that Smokey has reached the point in his forest-fire preventin' crusade that folks are writing songs about him, and others want to put him in books and make dolls out of him and stuff like that. And, of course, as we mentioned last issue, Congress has seen fit to "legalize" Smokey and make him unavailable to exploitation unless in the cause of forest fire prevention.

In the opinion of the Department's Forest Service and the State Foresters, RFD's rate a real hand in bringing Smokey to his present prominence through your efforts, in the public interest, to cut down man-caused forest fires in your respective listening areas.

The 1952 Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign (sponsored by the Advertising Council and conducted by your State Foresters and the Forest Service) is underway. Smokey (through these official channels) earnestly requests your continued cooperation.

Under separate cover the new Campaign Kit is enroute to you. In it are some mighty fine program materials. In addition, you can get platters and films from your local State or Federal forester or on direct request to this office.

Parity Handbook For You

Yours for the asking is a 29 page reference manual on parity price and its uses, an index of prices paid by farmers, and an index of prices received. It's been prepared jointly by the Production and Marketing Administration and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as a reference book for folks working with parity and presents a pretty complete discussion of all three categories. It's yours for a 2 cent postcard addressed to me at USDA.

Pulp Mill for Alaska

Department foresters have announced the arrival in Ketchikan, Alaska, of the first workers assigned to building the territory's first pulp mill. The 45 million dollar plant will be the largest industrial enterprise in Alaskan history. Upon completion, in about two years, the plant will provide high grade pulp for processing into rayon and cellophane. The mill is expected to draw other timber industries such as sawmills, a plywood plant, and shingle mills using kinds and grades of wood not used for pulp.

Improved Grain Storage Drive

Better storage on the farm and in country elevators is the aim of a cooperative drive recently announced by three Government agencies, leaders of farm organizations, and the grain trade. It's expected to save millions of bushels of grain per year and mean higher quality grain for human food. USDA, the Department of Interior, and the Federal Security Agency are the Government agencies concerned.

A nation-wide program pointing up the importance of sanitary grain storage to farmers and grain elevator operators is already underway. The Food and Drug Administration of FSA is planning an inspection program that may result in grain seizures or diversion of unclean grain into animal feed if legal sanitation levels are not maintained.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, is making recommendations for control of birds and rodents.

USDA is emphasizing the need for cleaning and weather-proofing storage buildings, getting rid of insect infestations, and cleaning and drying grain before storage. From five to ten percent of all stored grain is destroyed by insects...a loss in dollars and cents to farmers and elevator operators, and a waste of badly needed food as well.

Rehabilitation for Flooded Acres

RFD's in the main areas damaged by recent floods have received USDA release 1207-52 outlining the 20 million dollar land rehabilitation program approved by Congress and the President last week.

States primarily affected are Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Utah, Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Financial aid will come largely through PMA ACP payments with technical aid furnished by the Soil Conservation Service. More liberal credit is also being made available to farmers in disaster areas through Federal land banks and production credit associations.

Higher Returns - Lower Meat Costs?

Department economists and State Agricultural Experiment Stations are starting to study meat retailing. Hopes are that such study may mean increased net return to the farmer and lower cost to meat consumers. Since such a large share of the cost of marketing livestock and meat come from retailing, it's felt that a small percentage reduction in costs at that level might do more toward "upping" net returns to farmers and lowering cost to consumers than a similar percentage cut at other levels of marketing.

For Your Calendar

The Eleventh Annual Institute of Friends of the Land is set for Chicago, June 30 through July 2.

Next Crop Report June 30

Foot-and-Mouth Laboratory Plans

(Please do not use prior to June 17)

As you know, "legislation now before the Congress calls for the establishment of a foot-and-mouth disease laboratory in the United States, located on an island surrounded by deep water and entirely owned by the Federal government. The Bureau of Animal Industry is drawing up plans for the laboratory, including extra precautions to contain the highly contagious virus.

"The laboratory itself would be constructed entirely within a walled compound. Outside the wall would be a unit for breeding laboratory animals and quarters capable for caring for a reserve supply of healthy large animals. When they arrive at these outside holding pens, the animals would be dipped immediately to eradicate any external parasites they might carry. They would be kept in quarantine for two weeks under inspection for any developing diseases, and then get a second dipping.

"They would enter the compound through a double-door chamber. Inside doors are closed tightly when the animals enter the chamber. Then outside doors are closed, inside doors are opened, and the animals can be driven to the unit where the experimental work will be conducted. Once inside the compound, they would be sealed away from the outer world. Here would be no pastures or open lots where the animals might have contact with other livestock, birds, insects, or even the open air. Not even a window could be opened anywhere in the compound where they live, for light would be admitted through glass-brick and fixed glass.

"The protecting wall around the compound shows three entrances. Every person--with no exception--would leave his street clothes and all accessories such as watches, keys, money, and even eyeglasses, and put on sterilized laboratory clothing before he would be permitted to move anywhere within the area. An employee ready to leave the unit where he works and go home would get a thorough cleansing in his own section. Then he would don laboratory clothing and go down the corridor. At the exit door, he would remove his lab clothes and take a cleansing shower before he got his own clothes from his locker.

"One safety measure follows another in a constantly rising barrier against the virus leaving the laboratory: (1) Isolation on an island (2) The walled compound (3) Complete control of personnel, animals, and materials entering or leaving the compound (4) Sealing off of all contaminated areas within the lab (5) Destruction of all waste material (6) Cleansing of all human beings leaving the compound.

"Through studies conducted in the new laboratory, we hope to learn more and more about this dread enemy. We must learn more about how it is transmitted, how to identify it more quickly, and better ways to fight it. We will provide facilities where vaccine could be produced in an emergency. But all efforts will be aimed at the ultimate goal of improving methods of eradicating the disease wherever it is found. Eradication of animal disease is always less costly than attempting to live with it. Knowledge, gained through true research, is our best weapon in that battle."

*Quoted from B. T. Simms talk scheduled for the American Association of Agricultural Editors Meeting at Granby, Colorado, June 17, 1952. Complete copies of the talk on "The Threat of Foot-and-Mouth Disease" are yours for the asking.

Wide vs. Standard Width Tractor Rims

(For P.M. Release June 17)

Department engineers are scheduled to explain their findings on the subject of wide versus standard width tractor rims at a national agricultural engineers meeting in Kansas City on Tuesday. Their experiments show no significant traction advantage to mounting tires on wide rims (16 or 18 inches) as compared to standard 12 or 14-inch rims when tested under the same inflation pressure and weight load. Tests were run at 12 pounds pressure per square inch on sand, sandy loam, clay loam, and rough-finished concrete.

However, wide rims did offer the advantage of having the capacity for holding more fluid for weight when filled to the top of the rim. When water was used as the fluid the tire on the 18-inch rim held 240 pounds more weight than the tire on the 12 inch size. This much more weight was enough to give an additional 100 pounds of drawbar pull even on dry sand. However, specialists point out that the same increase in drawbar pull results from adding 240 pound wheel weights on the 12 inch rims,

Experimenting with different inflation levels they found a pressure of 8 pounds gave about 15 percent more drawbar pull (on dry sand at a tire load of 3,120) than tires inflated to 12 pounds. The 8 pounds, of course, is below the inflation pressure recommended by any member of the tire industry and caused excessive wrinkling of the sidewalls. However, the wrinkling was less pronounced with the tires on wider rims. Researchers point out that endurance tests are needed to determine whether wider rims will permit practical operation at these lower inflation pressures.

Network Farm and Home Shows

NBC National Farm and Home Hour...originates Saturday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. EDT. "USDA Headlines" with Ken Gapen. June 21 feature reports on National 4-H Club Camp with M. L. Wilson, Director of Federal Extension; Fred Jackson, IFYE from New Zealand; Barbara Funkhauser, IFYE from Los Cruces, New Mexico; Lloyd Cate, 4-Her from Lisbon, N. H.; Everett Mitchell and Ken Gapen. June 28 feature reports on the 89th Annual Meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Guests include: Dr. T. Childs, Ontario, Canada; Dr. B. T. Simms, USDA; Dr. A. G. Madden, Madeira, Ohio; and Dr. W. L. Boyd, University of Minnesota. Simms and Childs discuss anthrax and foot-and-mouth disease.

ABC American Farmer...originates Saturday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. EDT. "Top of the Farm News" with Jack Towers and Bob Crom. June 21 feature reports on National 4-H Club Camp with Howard Hass, Michigan Ext. Radio Editor interviewing camp delegates. June 28 feature originates at the Fifth Regional 4-H Club Camp at Tuskegee, Alabama, with Joe Tonkin.

CBS Farm News...originates Saturdays 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. EDT. Bill Costello with news and features from Washington.

Japanese Beetle Summer Quarantine Begins

Department entomologists just announced that railroads, truckers, and produce shippers operating in seven eastern States and the District of Columbia will operate under annual Japanese beetle quarantine certification and DDT treating requirements starting June 18 and probably ending August 28.

Beginning June 18, carlot and truckload shipments of fresh corn on the cob, cabbage, apples, peaches, and fresh beans in the pod, moving interstate to non-beetle areas from the "7-State" area must be certified, which requires inspection or fumigation, with protection from reinfestation. The shipment is then considered safe for moving into non-infested States. Regulated products are those likely to be infested with beetles at the time of harvest.

Enclosed

Farm Mobilization Fact Sheets, numbers 7 through 10 enclosed, are self explanatory helps for saving grain and controlling pests for increased livestock production. Also enclosed is your copy of Garden and Home Food Preservation Facts with handy garden material; the Agricultural Outlook Digest; and the latest in Farm Real Estate developments.

Among Ourselves

Merl Galusha, WGY, has been promoted to Supervisor of WRGB Television Productions. Understand the WGY RFD spot is still open. Seven half-hour farm radio programs and one 15-minute television program per week pretty well describes the air work involved.

Jack Murray, Acting Ext. Editor, Illinois, is offering to furnish RFD's in his State with weekly corn borer and insect spraying recommendations. Summaries of the reports are carried on the regular news wires. Full reports are mailed upon request.

Cordially,



Kenneth M. Capen
Ass't Director of Information
for Radio and Television

ENCLOSURES:

Farm Mobilization Fact Sheets Nos. 7 thru 10
Agricultural Outlook Digest
Garden and Home Food Preservation Facts No. 15
The Farm Real Estate Market

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RFD LETTER

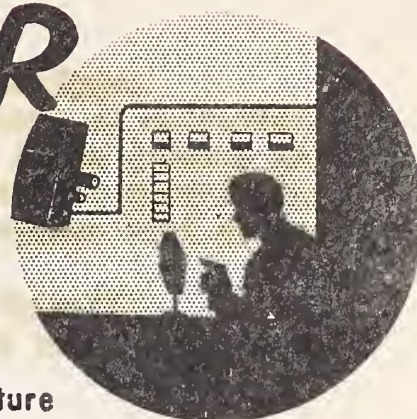
To

Radio Farm Directors

From

Radio and Television Service

Office of Information - U. S. Department of Agriculture



June 27, 1952
Letter No. 527

Dear Radio Farm Director:

There's word this week of a coming drive to increase use of cover crops. At present it's still in the embryonic stage...but all signs indicate you'll be hearing more about it shortly.

Need for such a campaign has developed around the fact that far too much of the acreage used for row crops in this country is not replanted to a crop which will protect the land over the winter. Planting cover crops on these acres would both increase our "vertical" -- yield per acre -- production and conserve soil. A good grass or legume cover crop protects the land from erosion, improves the physical condition of the soil, and boosts the humus content. And, in most areas, there are adapted legumes which will add nitrogen for use of succeeding crops.

In the southern States a good deal of progress has been made in recent years in the use of winter cover crops. However, more than half the acreage of row crops still goes unprotected during the winter months.

In the northern States, particularly in the Corn Belt, many row crop fields are not replanted to any crop that gives it protection over the winter. Even though the season is shorter, there are grasses and legumes adapted to the Midwestern States which could and would be used if an intensive campaign is undertaken. For example, some State experiment stations have found rye grass planted in corn at the last cultivation does a good job of protecting the land over the winter and improving the physical condition of the soil.

Due to the wide variation of recommended practices and cover crops from State to State and even county to county, such a drive will obviously have to be carried out at the State and local levels. State colleges and experiment stations will be depended upon as sources of information for such recommendations. RFD's can play an extremely important part in the drive.

At present, a sub-committee is being set up to discuss the possibilities and provide guides for such a campaign. They're scheduled to meet early next week. If they decide to go ahead...things will move fast since the most effective time for the start of the drive would probably be early July.

Supplies of all cover crops seed are found to be adequate and no limitation to encouraging the planting of winter cover crops anywhere in the country where they are needed. At present, there's a carryover of some 350 million pounds of cover crop seed and then, of course, there'll be the entire 1952 summer seed crop available for use this fall.

Although your local mobilization committees don't have any word on it yet...they may be contacting you soon on a drive for greater use of cover crops.

Register Now for Grassland Congress

RFD's planning to attend the Sixth International Grassland Congress are reminded by Dr. P. V. Cardon's organizing committee that now's the time for advance registration and making reservations. Priority in assignment of rooms is based on order of receipt of applications. You'll find registration and reservation blanks on pages 16 and 17 in the Grassland Information Bulletin sent you with the May 2nd issue of the RFD Letter.

Concerning Anthrax

Prohibition of importing "raw" bone meal for use as fertilizer or feed was proposed by USDA last week. The recommendation stemmed from requests from members of the livestock industry and other interested groups for restrictions to prevent entry of products which might be disseminating anthrax in this country.

In addition to favoring such regulations the Department is advising Farmers to be extra cautious on the "home front" and avoid feeding carcasses of dead animals to swine. Specialists say that practice is probably the most common source of infection in hogs.

Losses from recent anthrax outbreaks in the Middle West have been relatively light. Reports received by the Department show that outbreaks during the first quarter of 1952 in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio totaled 395 with losses of 846 swine and 31 cattle. Additional outbreaks were reported from California, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Coldest Not Best (For Potatoes)

In spite of jackets, potatoes can get too cold. Such would seem to be the findings of recent Department research carried on in cooperation with the California Experiment Station and Kern county, California, potato growers and shippers. Shipping temperatures of 55 degrees resulted in less shriveling and better healing of skinned and scuffed spots on the potatoes than did cooler temperatures...some as low as 40 degrees.

After three days at retail store temperatures, potatoes from the cooler cars were more shrivelled and browner than those from the cars with moderate temperatures. A week after unloading at the market, potatoes from the cool cars were barely salable while those from the somewhat warmer cars showed very little browning or shrivelling.

What's New in Experiment Station Research

During the round table session of last week's meeting I think it was Mal Hansen who said he, for one, would like to know more about the research going on in the States. Well, just out yesterday is the latest report on work being done in the Agricultural Experiment Stations...I think it may be the kind of report Mal will want.

It's actually the first summary of results of last year's work done at the stations under the Federal-grants program. Some 450 lines of marketing work is under way at these stations. The scope and extent of these is indicated by such examples as the following:

The Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station showed that widespread use of milk-vending machines, similar to those now used for soft drinks and cigarettes, could create a new outlet for about 510 million pounds of milk a year. Experiment stations in the North Central States moved a step closer toward perfecting the marketing of livestock by carcass weight and grade. Southern experiment stations engaged in a cotton-marketing study that is expected to serve as a guide to cotton farmers and the cotton trade in bringing about better marketing efficiency.

In addition to summarizing marketing research, the report also contains many examples of other research results: The North Dakota station solved the problem of installing sewage systems for farm homes in areas of tight soils and high water tables. Operating cost obtained for the new system was 3 to 5 cents per month and the cost of maintaining a disposal field was eliminated.

Steers bought as feeders, from herd owners using strains of bulls selected and tested for rapid gains by the Montana station in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, have brought net added returns of \$30 to \$40 per head above feed cost.

In Michigan the State experiment station solved the problem of getting insecticidal dusts to adhere to the foliage of trees. It developed a device that provides a high electric charge as the dust particles leave the nozzle of the duster providing 5 to 10 times better coverage than that obtained under ordinary procedures.

By substituting a synthetic compost for horse manure in raising mushrooms, Pennsylvania growers can save nearly 2 million dollars a year. The formula for the compost was developed by the State agricultural experiment station. Its general use would also provide an outlet for $\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of low-grade hay annually.

Research conducted for the improvement of grasslands and the increase of seeds of desirable grasses is summarized. For example, the Oklahoma station, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, raised the 8-year-average returns above costs per acre from \$5.07 to \$8.11 on its experimental range lands by controlling sagebrush and withholding grazing for two successive seasons. (This report is limited to 5,000 copies. RFD's may get a copy, while they last, from this office. As this is primarily a report to Congress, required by law, the report is not for general distribution.

Sanitation Important In Air Sac Infection

Animal industry specialists announced this week they've found sanitation in handling of poultry is one of the most important requisites to preventing spread of "air sac infection." Preliminary studies by Department specialists and representative veterinarians specializing in poultry diseases have found adequate disease control measures frequently being overlooked, allowing the possible spread of "air sac" and other poultry diseases.

For instance, persons servicing poultry farms were observed traveling from farm to farm and actually entering poultry houses without disinfecting shoes and other clothing. Use of easily disinfected rubber boots and coats is strongly recommended for such persons. Practices such as re-using shipping crates without washing and disinfection are also common carriers of air sac infection and other diseases.

Further studies on the disease will be carried out in various States.

Network Farm and Home Shows

CBS Farm News...Saturdays 3:30 to 3:45 EDT. Bill Costello with news and features from Washington.

NBC National Farm and Home Hour...Saturdays 1:00 to 1:30 EDT. "USDA Headlines" with Ken Gapen. July 5 broadcast features discussion of crown rust on oats with Dale Williams, Ext. Radio Editor, Iowa, interviewing W. H. Bragionier, Iowa State, and Don Fletcher, Secy. Rust Prevention Association. July 12 broadcast highlights use of radio in battle against forest fire losses. Jennings Pierce, KMED, interviews Sam Taylor and Lewis Simpson of Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm Association and the Simpson family for the story of how modern communications have cut fire losses in that area.

ABC American Farmer...Saturdays 12:30 to 1:00 EDT. "Top of the Farm News" Jack Towers and Bob Crom. July 5 feature tells story of what's being done to meet heavy demands for farm labor with Jack Towers interviewing Herb Waters of the Secretary's office. July 12 features a first look at planted acreages of feed grains as reported in the July 10 crop report.

Enclosed This Week

Many RFD's have indicated an interest in what's being done about the reorganization recommendations made by the Hoover Commission. Included is the complete text of a statement on that subject by Secretary Brannan.

"Clean Grain Means More Profit" is included as the first installment of the cooperative campaign on better storages mentioned in the June 13 letter.

For your calendar is included a revised schedule of crop and livestock reports for the rest of this year. Statistical Summary (enclosed) includes "dehydrated data" on potatoes, wheat and corn prospects, pasture and hay outlook, etc.

In Brief on Research

In his dedication of a new Agronomy Building at the University of Nebraska yesterday, A. H. Moseman, Chief of USDA's Bureau of Plant Industry, discussed the future of soils and farm crops research.

Looking into the future he mentioned research work that may soon lead to agronomic headlines. Here are some of the highlights: Sugar beet breeders are developing varieties with single-germ seeds that can be space-planted and thinned by machines. Those breeders are also working to find a beet with roots that are less tapering and more like the round garden beet to facilitate mechanical harvesting. And, their fight against profit destroying storage rot has already resulted in release of one variety resistant to the rot.

Examples of demands that cotton researchers are working to meet are: Larger acre yields of fiber with unusual strength to meet competition of synthetic fibers; strains with smoother leaves to promote cleaner harvest; plants with open growth habits so they'll be easier to cover with chemicals for insect and disease control as well as defoliants; and plants that bear bolls at a uniform height so they're more easily harvested with machines.

Radioactive isotopes are giving us a new accurate means of finding when plants need fertilizer most and in what combinations.

The development of soil conditioners...such as Krillium...may "be one of the most significant modern contributions to soil management." However, "in a way the rapid commercial development of chemical soil conditioners is rather disturbing because we still know too little about them."

The first materials, announced only in December of 1951, had been tested for several years in cooperation with State and Federal agronomists and by its developers. Early claims were conservative and recognized the limitation of high cost and lack of adequate information. Today, only six months later, soil conditioners are being offered in large ads in prominent city newspapers. Trade names and potential benefits claimed for these products all tend to capture the imagination of those having a heavy, sticky, hard-to-work soil.

"We might well question whether all companies advertising these products have data to show that the benefits from their chemical soil conditioners are worth the cost."

In the line of major chemical developments of research Moseman pointed to herbicides. Possible selectivity of some of the newer chemicals is amazing. During the past year specialists have tested one new compound that takes wild oats out of wheat and another that controls crabgrass and ryegrass in wheat.

And there's growing promise of using certain antibiotics to control plant diseases just as they control animal diseases.

4-H Membership Passes 2 Million

Federal Extension folks report 4-H membership has reached and surpassed the 2 million mark with a total enrollment of 2,004,139 members in 1951. A State by State breakdown of enrollments and completions is enclosed with this letter.

(For Use After July 1)

New Soybean Released As of July 1

As of July 1 all major soybean producing areas of the country will have an improved, high-yielding, high-oil content soybean. On that date the development of the Dorman Soybean for the upper Mississippi Delta and Mid-south is to be announced. Details are being sent RFD's in soybean growing regions in USDA release 1382-52.

Just Out on Farm Manpower

A brief on the farm manpower situation as affected by yesterday's statement from President Truman is being mailed to you this afternoon. Think you'll be interested in the Selective Service policies affected.

Among Ourselves

Although we'll have to admit the committee left something to be desired in the way of weather, 84 members of the RFD clan registered for the two-day meeting here last week. Speaking for ourselves and other Department folks, we were grateful for a chance to meet with the group and am sure we all benefitted from the meeting.

In talking to Merl Galusha, WRGB, we find his successor at WGY is Don Tuttle formerly of WHAI.

Foreign assignments seem to be the vogue these days...Chris Mack, WNAX, has been granted six-months leave to serve as MSA farm radio consultant in Paris.

We were happy to welcome one of the several summer trainees in the Department into our office this week. He's Ted Hutchcroft who just finished his junior year in ag journalism at Iowa State. Ted will serve as "guinea pig" so-to-speak for the trial run of this summer training program that may be an annual affair if successful. He'll be taking part in all phases of our work and with his background as RFD at KBUR, Burlington, Iowa; WMT Scholarship winner; his work with BBC as an IFYE and his experience with his home town paper, we're sure he'll more than pay his way here in the Radio and TV Service. He'll work here until September then go back to Iowa State for his senior year after which he plans to continue in the farm radio field.

Cordially,



Kenneth M. Gopen
Ass't Director of Information
for Radio and Television

ENCLOSURES:

Grain is Food--Keep it Clean

Statistical Summary

USDA Press Release 649-52

4-H Clubs Report in 1951

Rev. Schedule & Contents of Crop & Livestock
Reports for Rest of 1952

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